



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana**

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KOKOMO MAN INDICTED AS A RESULT OF U.S. ATTORNEY'S VIOLENT CRIME INITIATIVE

U.S. Attorney Hogsett says indictment is a result of federal-local collaboration

PRESS RELEASE

KOKOMO – Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced that Daniel Lee Shiraef, age 29, was federally charged with possession of a firearm by a person previously convicted of a felony. This prosecution follows an investigation by the Kokomo Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

“Together with law enforcement from across Howard County, we are sending a serious message with these indictments that the days of using our local jails as a revolving door are over,” Hogsett said. “As part of our ongoing Violent Crime Initiative, we are targeting repeat offenders and taking these ‘worst of the worst’ elements off our streets and punishing them with the full force of federal law.”

The indictment alleges that on or about May 18, 2011, Shiraef was found by Howard County law enforcement to possess (1) a Jennings .22 caliber handgun, (2) a Phoenix Arms .22 caliber handgun, (3) a Taurus .357 revolver, and (4) a Springfield Armory .40 caliber pistol. The indictment states that Shiraef’s criminal history includes prior felony convictions in Howard County for resisting law enforcement and dealing in cocaine.

Announced by Hogsett in March of this year, the Violent Crime Initiative represents a comprehensive district-wide strategy to combat drug traffickers and criminals that use and carry firearms in their illegal activities through improved local collaboration and aggressive federal prosecution.

Already in 2011, the VCI has caused a dramatic increase in the number of gun-related charges – from 14 felony possession of a firearm charges in 2010 to 96 thus far in 2011. Major

drug trafficking indictments are up more than 100% from where they were two years ago. And drug trafficking seizures have increased by more than seven-fold over 2010 numbers.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who is prosecuting the case for the government, Shiraef faces a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a possible fine of up to \$250,000. A hearing on the indictment will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis.

The charge is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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